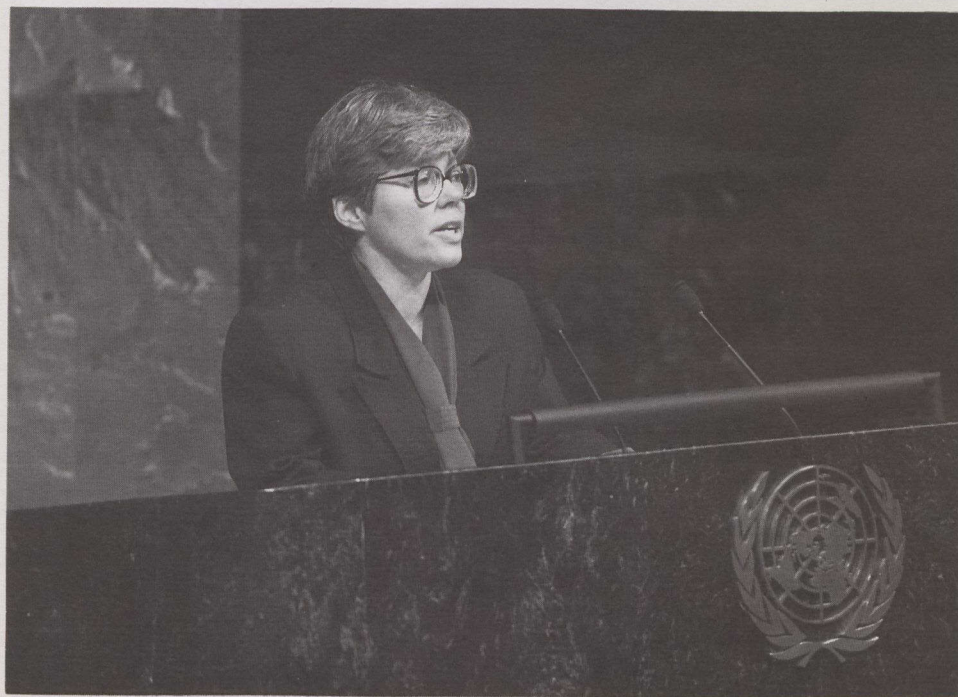




Ambassador for Disarmament Peggy Mason at UNGA 48.

Committee meeting in late January to address all outstanding procedural issues in a productive and forward looking manner.

Cut-off

A legally enforceable, multilaterally negotiated and credibly verifiable prohibition on the production of fissionable material for weapons or other nuclear explosive devices will be another important building block in our non-proliferation architecture. Canada has for many years introduced a resolution in this regard which has received overwhelming but not universal support. In light of recent very positive developments, including an initiative by President Clinton, it might not be overly optimistic to suggest that the time for a multilateral "cut-off" convention may well have come.

CWC

Canada is gratified that over 150 states have now become signatories to the landmark Chemical Weapons Convention. We would urge those that have not yet signed to do so at an early date. Canada also welcomes the considerable progress that is being made at the Preparatory Commission in The Hague in advance of the Convention's entry into force, hopefully in 1995. Just as last year's consensus resolution provided momentum for the signing conference in Paris, so we trust will this

year's resolution add renewed impetus to the vital work of bringing the Convention into force....

BTWC

With regard to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), Canada joins with others in welcoming the very substantial report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts established to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint....

The experts' study has reinforced [Canada's] position that measures can be taken to strengthen the BTWC with regard to verification of compliance. We are, as a result, preparing our request to the depositary governments to convene a conference to examine the report and to decide on any further action. We commend the report to other BTWC States Parties and, without pre-judging the outcome of their consideration, trust that due attention will be given to the question of making a similar request to the depositary governments to convene such a conference.

Verification

Last year, Canada initiated a resolution on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification that called upon Member States to provide their views on: additional actions that might be taken to imple-

ment the recommendations of the 1990 United Nations Group of Experts Study on the role of the UN in the field of verification; how verification of arms limitation and disarmament agreements can facilitate United Nations activities with respect to conflict resolution; and additional actions with respect to the role of the UN....

In Canada's view, a follow-on study to that of the 1990 Group of Experts would be timely and useful, particularly bearing in mind that the Cold War constraints that so limited the scope of the original study simply no longer apply....

Transparency in Armaments

In his annual report on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General cited the "historic significance" of the establishment of the UN Register of Conventional Arms. We fully concur with his assessment of the potential of such confidence-building measures to contribute to the Organization's efforts in the field of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking and we wholeheartedly welcome his decision that the UN Register "become a priority task" for the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. It is indeed gratifying that 79 Member States of the UN have now complied with the Register in its first year of operation. But we must not be complacent. We must work to ensure universal adherence to this vital component of transparency in arms. The confidence-building goal of the register will be achieved only with both universal adherence to the register and its further expansion.

On this latter point, there is a clearly established path. A group of governmental experts will meet in 1994 to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development. Canada fully supports this process and on many occasions has called for the early expansion of the Register to include military holdings and procurement through national production. We have already made this additional information available in our own reporting to the Register and draw attention to the fact that a significant number of other countries have also done so....

UNDC

The value and the vitality of the Disarmament Commission as a multilateral forum for meaningful dialogue on a limited range of issues has been amply demonstrated in the last three years. Yet, on the